

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 16-742V

(Not to be published)

AMANDA BIERS-MELCHER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES

Respondent.

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Filed: March 20, 2017

Decision by Proffer; Vaccine Act
Entitlement; Damages; Influenza
Vaccine; Shoulder Injury Related to
Vaccine Administration (SIRVA)

Edward Kraus, Chicago, Illinois, for Petitioner.

Ilene Albala, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., for Respondent.

DECISION¹

HASTINGS, Special Master.

This is an action seeking an award under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program² on account of an injury suffered by Amanda Biers-Melcher. On October 24, 2016, Respondent filed a report conceding that Petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case.

After discussions between the parties, on March 14, 2017, Respondent filed a “Proffer on Award of Compensation.” Petitioner’s counsel, Edward Kraus, contacted a member of my staff by e-mail, on March 15, 2017, to indicate that Petitioner accepts Respondent’s Proffer as a reasonable measure of the amount of the award in this case.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this Decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website. Therefore, this document will be made available to the public unless the Petitioner files, within fourteen days, an objection to the disclosure of any material in the Decision that would constitute, “medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa—12(d)(4)(B); Vaccine Rule 18(b).

² The applicable statutory provisions defining the Program are found at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa—10 *et seq.* (2012). Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references will be to 42 U.S.C. (2012). I will also sometimes refer to the Act of Congress that created the Program as the “Vaccine Act.”

I have reviewed the file, and based on that review, I conclude that the Respondent's Proffer appears to be an appropriate one, pursuant to § 300aa-15(b). (I have attached a copy of the Proffer to this decision.) I order that Respondent make a lump sum payment as described below.

- Respondent shall make a total lump sum payment of \$90,000.00, in the form of a check payable to Petitioner, representing compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

Under the statute governing the Program, as well as the "Vaccine Rules" adopted by this court, the special master must now enter a decision endorsing that Proffer, and the clerk must enter judgment, in order to authorize payment of the award. See § 300aa-12(d)(3)(A) and (e)(3); § 300aa-13(a); Vaccine Rules 10(a), 11(a).³

Amanda Biers-Melcher is entitled to an award under the Vaccine Act to provide compensation for her injury. The award shall be in the form of a lump sum payment, as provided above.

In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review of this Decision, the clerk shall enter judgment in accord with this Decision.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ George L. Hastings, Jr.
George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master

³ The "Vaccine Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims" are found in Appendix B of the Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 14, 2017